

EO-979

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-43 (Sub-No. 181X)

July 11, 2008

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:
(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on June 20, 2008 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended three environmental conditions, and concluded that, as currently proposed, and if the recommended conditions are imposed, abandonment of the Line would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Comments on the EA

Not applicable.

Modifications to the EA

Not applicable.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended and three environmental conditions are recommended by SEA:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Illinois Central Railroad Company shall consult with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, District Conservationist at LaCenter, Kentucky regarding potential impacts to farmland and Wetland Reserve Program sites.
2. Illinois Central Railroad Company shall consult with the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and notify NGS at least 90 days prior to beginning salvage activities that could disturb or destroy any geodetic station markers.
3. Illinois Central Railroad Company shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. Illinois Central Railroad Company shall provide documentation of the existing three bridges on the rail line proposed for abandonment to the Kentucky Heritage Council (the State Historic Preservation Office or SHPO), and also provide written confirmation to the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis regarding the SHPO's acceptance of the bridge documentation. Illinois Central Railroad Company may not initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of the tracks and ties) or file its consummation notice until the Section 106 process has been completed and the Board has removed this condition.

SEA concludes that, as currently proposed, and if the recommended conditions are imposed, abandonment of the Line would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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